

Appl. No. 09/657,956
Filed 9/8/2000

Atty Docket JP920000170US1

REMARKS

1. Informalities and preferred formatting. Applicant has inserted line numbers for the claims set out herein above, as requested.

Applicant has spell checked the application and submits corrections to the specification set out herein above. The terms "traveling" and "continuous" were originally misspelled. Applicant apologizes for inconvenience this may have caused.

With regard to the word "organise," Applicant notes that this is a well-known, and accepted, variant spelling of the word "organize." The same applies to a few other words in the present application spelled with an "s," but which are often spelled with a "z", such as, for example, "organisation."

Applicant regrets that the Office finds certain language of the application to be inexact or verbose. Submitted herein are the following documents for consideration in this regard. The first document enclosed is a web page from the web site of the European Patent Office, which refers to 1999 Facts and Figures and the "European Patent *Organisation*" (emphasis added). See also the De la Rue reference relied upon by the Office action (using the variant, "organisation" on page 2, first full paragraph). The second document enclosed is a definition of the term "organise" from the web site of www.hyperdictionary.com. This document also sets out matching terms, including organisation, organised, etc.

It is Applicant's belief that this background information will help inform an understanding of the application. However, if there are additional words found to be unfamiliar, verbose or inexact, so that additional changes or background information are desired, Applicant will gladly seek to provide further information or revise terminology, as appropriate, depending on the particular matter pointed out.

Please note that assignee for Applicant prepares many patent applications for filing in numerous countries, and it would arguably place an undue burden on the preparer of such applications to require revision of language which is *understood* in this country, when the revision is required merely on the basis that the language is not as *common* in this country as some other terminology or spelling. This issue has been pointed out with regard to "organisation" or "organise." Applicant notes that the same applies to a word in the application spelled with an "re," but which is often spelled with an "er," i.e., "centre." (Note that "centre" is also used in the De la Rue reference.) Applicant is of the belief that merely providing this

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clarification is sufficient and is more efficient for the Patent Office than it would be to review and enter numerous re-written paragraphs submitted by Applicant. Applicant is also of the belief that this is more efficient for Applicant than it would be to re-write and submit for entry numerous paragraphs simply for the purpose of amending spelling of such words. Therefore, Applicant respectfully declines to amend such spelling.

2. Claim rejections – 35 USC 112. Applicant submits amendments, as set out herein above, responsive to rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Specifically, in claim 3, “immigration department” is replaced with “Immigration Authority,” to make terminology consistent. In claim 8, “system” is replaced with “apparatus,” to make terminology consistent. In claims 2 – 4, “A method according to” is replaced with “The method of,” to make the statement more clear. In claims 6 – 8, “Apparatus according to” is replaced with “The apparatus of,” to make the statement more clear.

3. Claim rejections under 35 USC 102. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by information published on the Internet at the following address: www.digitaldatatechnology.com/fairfieldpontevedra/decals.html (“Fairfield”).

Applicant notes that Fairfield teaches about obtaining a “decal,” which it appears the Office action equates to the “pass” of the present claimed invention. Fairfield teaches that the decal is issued upon validation of ownership or residence. Thus, as taught by Fairfield the pass that is issued is valid upon issuance. In contrast claim 1 of the present invention, states that *non-valid* passes are issued to participants. Claim 5 has similar language.

To even further distinguish the present invention, claims 1 and 5 are herein amended to indicate that information, which is collected, is recorded in an accreditation system. Also, the amended claims state that validating the non-valid pass for the participant includes updating the accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system and securing the pass in a security pouch. Fairfield does not teach or suggest this.

No new matter is added for these amendments, since the original application provides support for the changes.¹

¹ Page 4, lines 18-22 (“The registration step 220 also consists of a number of sub-step shown in Fig. 1C. Sub-step 221 of the registration step 220 consists of the recording of data of the participants into an accreditation database forming part of the accreditation system 300. Referring to Fig. 2, participants’ data is gathered through returned registration forms 320 previously sent to the participants in sub-step 215.”); Page 6, line 28 – page 7, line 5

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Applicant contends that these amendments overcome the rejection of claims 1 and 5. Likewise, since original claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend upon claims 1 and 5, respectively, the rejection of the dependent claims is also overcome.

To still further distinguish the present invention, claims 9 and 10 are herein added, depending on claims 1 and 5, respectively. The amended claims particularly point out that the non-valid passes issued to the participants form a first portion of a valid pass and that the participants are associated with organisations. Also, non-valid passes are produced by the accreditation system for the organisations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organisation forms a second portion of a valid pass. As claimed, these non-valid passes produced for the organisations are issued to the organisations, so that they may distribute the second-part passes to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective organisations. The first and second portions are both used in the validating, as claimed.

No new matter is added for these amendments, since the original application provides support for the changes.²

4. Claim rejections under 35 USC 103. Claims 3, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Specifically, claim 8 stands rejected as being obvious in view of Fairfield alone. Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Fairfield, in view of a news article from DeLaRue news centre ("De la Rue").

Since claims 3, 6 and 8 depend upon amended claims 1 and 6, respectively, Applicant contends that the rejection of these dependent claims is overcome.

("A non-valid accreditation pass is validated in step 250 by updating the accreditation status of the participant on the accreditation system 300, and laminating the accreditation pass into a security pouch. A validated accreditation pass serves as an identification and access control device to be worn by all participants. Therefore, the validated accreditation pass consists of a physical part, namely the accreditation pass itself once laminated, and a logical part being the participant's accreditation status, which has been updated on the accreditation system 300.").

² Page 5, line 31 – page 6, line 15 ("A first part containing the participant's personal details is issued to each of these participants . . . A number of second parts are issued to the organisation, named a responsible organisation in this case. . . . The organisations apply for second part passes. The second part displays access privileges. . . . The responsible organisation is in charge of administering the distribution of the second part passes to the appropriate participants. This is typically done on a shift-by-shift basis and according to operational requirements. The two-part passes are only valid when both parts of the pass are used in conjunction with each other. In step 235 the non-valid accreditation passes, which also includes first parts of two-part passes, are issued to the participants. Second part passes are issued to responsible organisations.").

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PRIOR ART OF RECORD

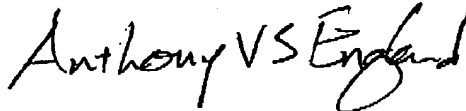
Applicant has reviewed the prior art of record cited by but not relied upon by Examiner, and asserts that the invention is patentably distinct.

REQUESTED ACTION

Applicant contends that the invention as claimed in accordance with amendments submitted herein is patentably distinct, and hereby requests that Examiner grant allowance and prompt passage of the application to issuance.

Attorney hereby requests that Examiner call to discuss the case if any issues remain unresolved. Please call or send Attorney an e-mail to propose a time for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Web page from the web site of the European Patent Office

Definition of the term "organise" from the web site of www.hyperdictionary.com